

OREGON CROP WEATHER



Oregon
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Released: April 25, 2005
Week ending: April 24, 2005
Volume: 04-05

Phone: 503-326-2131
Toll Free 1-800-338-2157
Email: nass-or@nass.usda.gov
Internet - www.nass.usda.gov/or

Weather: Inclement weather put a halt to many field operations last week. All weather stations reported rainfall last week, and some counties including Josephine and Malheur reported showers with light hail. Most weather stations across Oregon reported temperatures above normal last week, with high temperatures ranging from eighty three degrees in the North Central area to sixty degrees in the Coastal areas, and lows ranged from forty degrees in the Coastal areas to twenty one degrees in South Central areas. The Dalles, Bandon, and Union only received precipitation one day last week, while John Day and Redmond reported precipitation six days last week. Burns and Redmond are the only stations to report precipitation above 100 percent of normal for the season.

Field Crops: Wet conditions continued in western Oregon. Producers kept busy with fertilizer and lime applications. In Marion County, stem rust has shown up in some wheat and grass seed fields. Some fields have been treated with fungicides. Much of eastern Oregon received some rain last week as well. Spring grain planting and spraying continued. Despite recent rains, dry conditions in Morrow and Sherman counties have begun to show their effects on crops.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures were reported in good condition across western Oregon. Some areas remained very wet, but overall pasture conditions continued to improve with adequate growth. Precipitation received across eastern Oregon also helped to improve pastures and rangeland. Cool weather, however, continued to slow pasture growth causing some producers to prolong supplemental feeding. Many producers also continued to plan for hauling livestock water in the near future as ponds are still at very low spring-time levels. Livestock were reported in excellent condition across the State.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were very busy shipping large potted plants and balled/burlapped trees and shrubs to eastern markets. Greenhouses still shipping large amounts of plant material to retail outlets. There are many spring plant sales being conducted. Christmas tree growers are finishing up planting of new Christmas trees and spraying for weeds.

Vegetables: In western Oregon, vegetable planting was slow due to precipitation. Early green onions were ready to be harvested. Other vegetables that were planted before the rains such as peas, carrots and radishes were doing well. Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook counties were worried that the continued moisture could cause botrytis neck rot on the garlic crop. White rot was also active in the garlic and onion crops. Rhubarb harvest began in Wasco County and was almost ready for harvest in Clackamas County. Klamath growers began bedding and fertilizing potato fields. Asparagus harvest is underway in Umatilla County.

Fruits and Nuts: Pollinization of apples and pears was limited in Clackamas County due to the cool and rainy weather during bloom. Strawberry fields were looking better with some weeding underway. Caneberries were starting fruit spurs. Blueberries and apples were blooming in Polk County. Berry crops were growing well and grapes were leafing out. Marion County hazelnut growers were applying fungicide sprays for Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB). Some apple varieties were still in bloom. A week of good weather let hazelnut growers in the southern Willamette Valley back in their orchards to spray for EFB. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apples were at full bloom (WSU stage 8); Bing cherries were at post bloom (WSU stage 9); and Pinot noir grapes were at bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 5). Rain late in the week resulted in the initiation of pear scab infection periods throughout most of the valley. Fire blight risk increased late in the week with warmer temperatures. Risk ranged from low to high depending on local fire blight history. Jackson County vineyards were showing a good start. Orchardists were busy with spraying and killing weeds. Most all blossoms were gone and new fruit was beginning to emerge. Cold cells moving through Josephine County caused growers to need protection in their orchards. There were killing frosts during the week and precipitation in the form of rain and hail. Due to the cool and wet weather in the Milton-Freewater area, there is growing concern about the pollination rate in cherries. Wasco County strawberries were in bloom. Most fruit blooms had all dropped by the end of the week. Cherry trees were nearly all leafed out and early cherries were visible on trees. A few frost fans were operated over several nights. Grass mowing under fruit trees was active throughout the week.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/24/05

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	7	25	66	2
Subsoil	19	26	55	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/24/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	84	81	76	81
Barley emerged	71	53	45	57
Spring wheat planted	87	85	87	90
Spring wheat emerged	66	53	58	62
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.9	5.2	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/24/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	1	10	27	57	5
Spring wheat	0	18	63	14	5
Barley	1	4	60	24	11
Range and pasture	5	12	33	48	2

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Limited fieldwork took place this week, mainly spraying and fertilizing activities. Looks like the pollinization of pears and apples was limited due to the cool, rainy weather during bloom. Strawberry fields are looking better, some weeding underway. Caneberries are starting fruit spurs, and rhubarb is almost ready to harvest. Vegetable planting is slow, but activities at the local nursery outlets was greatly enhanced by the warmer temperatures. Large potted plants were being shipped to distant markets. Livestock are thriving on an adequate pasture supply.

COLUMBIA: Very wet. Nurseries busy with shipping. Pastures are in good shape.

JACKSON: We had some wet days, but there is always work on farms and ranches for the rainy days. Maintenance of equipment, fencing, weed control and irrigation ditch work. Ground moisture was still quite high, but some field work did occur. Grains and hay are in good shape as a result of the rain. Vineyards are showing a good start. Orchards were busy with spraying and some weed killing. Most all blossoms are now gone as the new fruit begins to emerge. Early plantings of green onions are about ready to pull. Other vegetables that were planted before the rains including early peas, carrots, and radishes look quite good. Ground has been a bit too wet to do much planting. Greenhouses are still very busy with spring vegetable and flower starts. Starts are for sale at outlets. Nurseries are also very busy with many potted and balled/burlap trees and shrubs. Many livestock are on pasture now. Calving and lambing continues. Pastures are finally looking better.

JOSEPHINE: We had killing frost this week with precipitation in the form of rain and some hail on most days. Cold cells moving thru meant protection in orchards. Very nice weather for transplanting. Blueberries are still blooming, and bees are still working the shrubs, trees and vines that are blooming now. Some

truck gardens were able to till soil in preparation for planting, depending on drainage of the soil and amount of precipitation for the day. Nursery sales are picking up with customers gearing up for longer, warmer days. Many young calves in pastures now. We no longer have sheep in our area. Local grower had too much trouble with predators and quit raising them about 2-3 years ago. Native trees/shrubs are leafing out and blooming as are all domestic shrubs and trees, which are very pretty right now.

LANE: A week of good weather has most producers back in their fields continuing their spray programs on grass seed and hazelnuts. Row crop producers have begun field preparation activity for planting.

MARION: Recent rains have improved soil moisture conditions for crops throughout the county with showers through Saturday. However, the precipitation slowed field spraying and tillage work, but fertilizer and lime application continued. Stem rust showing up in some grass seed fields and a few fields have been treated with fungicides. Rust has also been a problem in fields of Foote winter wheat. Hazelnut growers are applying fungicides for Eastern Filbert Blight. Some apple varieties are still blooming. Stringing of area hop yards is underway. Overall, crop conditions are good.

POLK: Hay fields, including red clover and alfalfa, are growing well. Spot spraying in grass fields continued. Blueberries and apples are blooming, berry crops are growing well, and grapes leafing out. Garlic is growing well and rhubarb is looking good. Small potted shrubs are being rotated, new cuttings are growing under cover, and digging and balling large trees are taking place. Pastures are growing and are quite wet with some flooded spots. Sheep are pasturing on alfalfa.

EASTERN OREGON

GILLIAM: Scattered rain showers are helping spring seeded grain to germinate and emerge. Some severe storms in isolated areas of the county caused erosion of fields and rangeland.

HARNEY: Calving winding down, branding and turnout continuing as rain allows.

HOOD RIVER: In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pear at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apple at full bloom (WSU stage 8); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 5). Late-week rain resulted in the initiation of pear scab infection periods throughout most of the valley. Fire blight risk increased late in the week with warmer temperatures to low to high risk depending on local fire blight history.

JEFFERSON/DESCHUTES/CROOK: Over 1" of rain fell on Saturday in parts of Central Oregon. All irrigation districts have been helped this week by the rain and cool weather. Rain also helped forage production for range and oat growers. If cool, damp, cloudy weather persists, through this week, garlic growers should consider treating with a fungicide for botrytis neck rot. As the fungal spores infect primarily on the neck near the soil line, sprays are best directed at this target. If this weather persists through May, several sprays applied at 2-wk should be applied. Alternate between non-systemic materials such as chlorothalonil (Bravo) and partially systemic materials such as iprodione (Rovral). Typically, botrytis sprays are not required if weather stays sunny and dry, or as garlic necks increase in size after mid- to late-May. White Rot of garlic and onions is active. Chick peas are all planted.

KLAMATH: Cool weather continues, pastures growing slowly, and most livestock are being fed hay. Calving and lambing nearly complete. Spring planting grain is underway. Onions are being planted. Bedding and fertilizing potato fields has begun.

LAKE: Received precipitation throughout the week and weekend. Cooler temperatures continue to stunt the growth of the spring pastures. Alfalfa producers have begun to spray fields for weed control.

MALHEUR: Weather was cooler than normal. Several showers occurred with some light hail. Ontario reported almost 1/2" of rain for the week. Spring grains were emerging, and corn and potatoes were being planted. Some sugarbeets were being replanted due to frost. The ground is being prepared to plant dry beans. Frequent showers have kept livestock and range conditions in good to excellent condition.

MORROW: Fall wheat started showing signs of water stress early last week. Soil water has been depleted. Timely rains are needed for the remainder of the season. A 50% reduction in the county-wide average yield is likely. Weekend rains will provide temporary relief from the on-going drought. Weekend rainfall amounts (in wheat producing areas) ranged from 0.1 to 0.5 inches in most locations.

SHERMAN: Picked up some needed rain over the weekend, nearly .25 inches, which is the first significant rain we have had since January. However, it is not enough to save this year's crop. The drought impacts really showed up this last week in the form of browned out wheat. Shallow spots continue to decline rapidly and even the good spots are showing blue and onion leaf effects. Good fall seeding resulted in some 100 bushel stands that the moisture simply cannot support. Those stands will be lucky to yield average at this point, even with the rain. First barley is starting to head out, two weeks early. Cheat grass and foxtail heading out now. Water! Send water!

UMATILLA: The Hermiston area received hail Saturday night. Due to the cool and wet weather in the Milton-Freewater area there is a growing concern about the pollination rate in cherries. Asparagus harvesting ongoing.

WALLOWA: Moisture in the form of snow and rain came during the first part of the week. This is helping with moisture conditions. Snow pack is improving also. However, ponds are still not filling up which is causing many producers to plan for water hauling for livestock.

WASCO: Rain showers occurred several days adding a quarter to half inch of moisture to the top soil. Thunder and lightning occurred Saturday night. Temperatures at night reached from frost to low 50's, while day time temperatures ranged from mid 50's to high 70's. Approximately five days were open for field work. Moldboard plowing is in full swing. High winds continue to hamper ground spraying. Spring wheat and barley seeding completed. The current rains will aid crop germination. Alfalfa crops are starting to grow, but no buds present yet. Rhubarb starting to be harvested and strawberries are in bloom. Most fruit blooms had all dropped by the end of the week. Cherry trees are nearly all leafed out and early cherries are visible on trees. A few frost fans were operated several nights. Grass mowing under fruit trees was active throughout the week. Beef cattle are doing well on improving pasture growth. A few late heifers still calving and sheep shearing in progress.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 24, 2005 (as of 11:00 am)

Station	Air temperature ¹				Growing ² Degree days		Last week precip. ³			Season cum. Precipitation ⁴			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total Inches	DFN	Days	Total Inches	DFN	Pct. Normal	Days
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	75	52	+4	20	+13	0.49	-0.48	3	51.11	-6.90	88	136
Bandon ⁵	38	62	51	+3	14	+0	0.24	-0.64	1	46.95	-5.90	89	122
Crescent City	40	60	52	+2	18	-7	0.02	-0.88	2	46.28	-12.91	78	99
Florence	31	68	50	+1	12	-2	0.61	-0.48	2	52.83	-14.74	78	123
Tillamook	35	75	50	+3	14	+7	0.64	-0.61	3	57.84	-19.16	75	132
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁵	34	77	54	+5	32	+11	0.52	-0.07	3	23.50	-11.74	67	120
Corvallis	36	77	56	+6	41	+23	0.42	-0.11	3	16.66	-21.01	44	93
Detroit Lake ⁵	36	72	51	+7	16	+9	0.99	0.07	3	28.01	-31.41	47	70
Eugene	34	70	52	+1	18	-3	0.32	-0.32	3	20.82	-23.11	47	106
Hillsboro	33	75	52	+3	18	-2	0.26	-0.16	3	20.16	-12.61	62	119
McMinnville	31	76	52	+2	18	-3	0.55	0.05	3	18.79	-20.06	48	117
Portland	37	75	54	+3	31	+7	0.49	-0.02	3	20.52	-10.24	67	115
Salem	34	75	53	+4	23	+7	0.73	0.24	3	19.93	-14.44	58	106
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	31	78	52	-2	27	-10	0.33	-0.02	3	23.08	-5.42	81	85
Medford	33	78	53	+2	30	-1	0.55	0.29	3	13.59	-2.81	83	70
Roseburg	36	77	54	+3	35	+6	0.69	0.22	3	22.03	-7.10	76	90
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	29	68	48	+3	8	+1	0.27	-0.01	4	6.89	-3.55	66	62
Echo ⁵	35	81	56	+4	41	+9	0.14	0.00	4	3.81	-3.33	53	79
Heppner	33	75	52	+3	25	+5	0.29	0.01	3	6.39	-3.89	62	74
Hermiston	33	83	56	+4	45	+13	0.68	0.54	2	4.29	-2.81	60	48
John Day	34	59	46	-2	4	-10	0.65	0.37	6	7.16	-1.54	82	80
Madras ⁵	27	65	47	-2	6	-15	0.91	0.77	4	5.47	-2.33	70	78
Moro	29	73	51	+4	24	+10	0.21	0.06	3	5.55	-3.34	62	74
Parkdale ⁵	30	71	50	-1	12	-9	0.79	0.44	3	17.10	-11.16	61	108
Pendleton	34	76	54	+3	34	+7	0.09	-0.12	2	5.19	-4.18	55	66
The Dalles	38	81	57	+9	46	+31	0.18	0.04	1	6.15	-4.22	59	70
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁵	27	64	45	+3	1	-6	0.21	0.03	2	9.15	-4.02	69	59
Bend	22	62	43	-2	2	-8	0.82	0.68	3	8.84	-0.09	99	53
Burns	25	65	44	+0	2	-5	0.63	0.49	4	7.44	0.47	107	69
Christmas Valley ⁵	21	67	42	-5	-	-14	0.45	0.31	3	6.17	-3.01	67	61
Klamath Falls	24	68	43	-4	2	-12	0.28	0.14	4	7.58	-3.34	69	59
Klamath Falls ⁵	21	67	42	-4	1	-13	0.27	0.13	3	7.06	-3.86	65	84
Lakeview	21	69	42	-3	-	-7	0.53	0.25	2	3.79	-8.09	32	39
Lorella ⁵	21	69	42	-4	-	-14	0.16	0.02	2	8.21	-2.71	75	86
Redmond	23	66	46	+1	2	-9	1.30	1.17	6	6.66	0.63	110	60
Worden ⁵	21	68	42	-4	-	-14	0.14	0.00	3	6.72	-4.20	62	75
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	26	66	46	+0	3	-9	0.29	0.08	2	5.86	-0.64	90	64
Joseph	29	63	44	+3	2	-3	0.44	0.02	5	11.55	-7.30	61	92
La Grande	32	70	49	+2	9	-5	0.26	-0.07	2	6.54	-6.03	52	65
Prairie City ⁵	31	65	44	+4	1	+1	0.95	0.64	4	8.14	-7.81	51	57
Union	32	68	48	+1	7	-7	0.26	-0.02	1	8.45	-0.30	97	72
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	33	74	53	+1	27	-8	0.02	-0.12	2	3.71	-3.74	50	38
Rome	23	75	47	-2	7	-12	0.29	0.13	4	5.02	-0.27	95	50

¹ Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. ² Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit. ³ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁴ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2004. ⁵ Agri-Met weather stations.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Summary based on NWS data.

Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, Director

Laci Banks, Agricultural Statistician